Newsletter May 2016

Dear LAS Members,

I don’t suppose there are any members who have not seen or heard about the devastating fire that totally destroyed the Memorial Hall earlier this month. Not only has the Hall been totally lost, but sadly all of our equipment, which was stored under the stage, has also gone up in smoke! Fortunately we still have the projector and video camera as these were elsewhere, but our most significant loss has been our display stands and other exhibition-related materials. Rebuilding the Hall will take approximately 24 months and there will be a significant shortfall in funds. There will be fund-raising activities in the months ahead, which I hope members will support. After all, it’s for the benefit of Lechlade Art Society.

However, we are determined to have an Exhibition as usual this year, and to make it a fund-raising event as well as a celebration of excellent artwork. I’m pleased to write, that due to huge support from the staff at the Council, we have been able to transfer our booking from the Hall to the Pavilion for the same dates. Therefore this year’s Exhibition is definitely going ahead! The dates are Friday 26th – Tuesday 30th August as originally advertised. Display stands will be hired at minimal cost, thanks to Carterton Lions, and we have had offers from other art societies as well. There will be some restrictions on the number of entries per member, as the venue is smaller. Card sales will be limited to those “donated” to the LAS appeal fund – see details below, but we hope to be able to say; “Business as usual!” and start getting back on our feet. As usual details on submission of work, stewards’ rota, and collection of unsold work will be published soon.

Christine Hounslow, one of our committee members, has started the fund-raising by showing the committee a website that prints greeting cards in very short runs. If you have an image of your work, a drawing, painting, print, or mixed-media image in photographic form, JPEG prefered, please send it to Bob Marchant who is co-ordinating the collection. Once he has received a number of images – these MUST be originals done by you - he will make a balanced selection and send them on to the company for printing. These [and only these] will be on sale at the exhibition as part of the fund–raising effort. Please don’t be too disappointed if your image is not selected for printing. We are looking for a balance of landscape, still-life and figure images so there will be a wide appeal of pictures to choose from. If you want to take part please send your images in ASAP. Bob’s e mail address is - marchantrambler@gmail.com

Despite the main focus of this newsletter being the loss of the Hall and its consequences, we still have other activities to offer. Please support the forthcoming drawing/painting days at Buscot, 13th June, meet 10.00 am in the car park, house tour 11.00 am; and Coleshill 7th July, meet 10.00 am in the National Trust Estate Office car park

There are still places available on the Sue Townsend workshop to be held in the Pavilion on the 30th June. Sue will coach either oil or watercolour painting so this is a wonderful opportunity for members to sharpen their skills in either discipline. Cost £30 for the day. Please contact me on 01367 252540 if you are interested.

**Annual General Meeting**

This has been scheduled since the beginning of the year and will be held, as originally published, on Tuesday 14th June in The New Inn, Long Room, Lechlade. [The pub in the square, near the library.] Access is under the pub arch, and the room is on the left, look for the LAS notice on the door. Please come along and support this essential event. Remember that the OSCART award will take place at the AGM. Please bring your picture as usual and a display stand as all the LAS easels were destroyed.

Membership will be due at the time of the AGM and the opportunity to pay by standing order will be on offer this year. Forms for individual membership will be separate from joint membership and will be available via email; post; and at both the Monday and Thursday group, also, at the AGM itself. We hope that this will make renewal much easier and all you will need to do is complete the form provided and present it to your bank.

We are still in the process of reorganising the monthly meeting starting in September. We are hoping that the original dates and times can be accommodated in the Pavilion but of course every club and society that was using the Memorial Hall has the same idea! As and when we can settle dates they will be published. Remember to look on the website and keep an ear open at the meetings, demonstrations, and the Exhibition.

At this stage, we have ample space to accommodate more members on the eGallery of the LAS Website. (Cost is a one off payment of £10 to join and an annual renewal subscription fee of £5, due on 1st July). For more information visit our website [www.lechladeartsociety.co.uk](http://www.lechladeartsociety.co.uk) or email Vedanti: lechladeartsociety@gmail.com

Best wishes,

Brian Hon. Sec. On behalf of the committee.